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The writer labeled this question, "Foolish Question, No.—?" It does seem impossible to define permanent membership in words that will be clearly understood. The first statement in the letter above agrees with the facts. A nurse must have been once sent as a delegate, after that one time, at any subsequent meeting which she attends, she may become a permanent member by presenting credentials and paying dues.—Ed.

#### SUGGESTION FOR ALMSHOUSE COMMITTEES

DEAR EDITOR: In your September issue the Committee on Almshouse Nursing speaks of the religious needs of the inmates of such institutions. The spiritual welfare of the people in public institutions is too much neglected by our Protestant churches, largely through an ignorance for which there is little excuse. I suggest that your Nurses' Association bring the needs of public institutions before the state conventions of the various Protestant denominations. You will be heard with interest.

Nearly all the Protestant denominations are organized into a national body—the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, with subordinate federations in most of the states. These state bodies, like the separate denominations of which they consist, meet annually. If you will present the needs of your patients to these various state bodies, you will not only benefit your patients, but also the church, which always needs the stimulus of concrete opportunity for work. By presenting these needs to all the denominations you make sure that if, as sometimes happens, one denomination rejects the opportunity, some other body will be found that will jump at the chance. In the large cities the weekly meetings of the ministers can be reached easily and should not be neglected.

For the addresses of secretaries of state federations, write to the Rev. C. S. Macfarland, 1611 Clarendon Building, New York, secretary of the Federal Council.

*Rutland, Mass.*

BAYARD E. HARRISON.

#### HELPFUL TABLE TALK

DEAR EDITOR: When I entered training, I was amazed at the free conversation at the tables, concerning patients, nurses, and doctors. As the months passed, I am ashamed to say I talked as much as any one, I suppose, on the routine subjects. I believe my training school is one of the best in the country, too. Since I have been out in institutional work myself, I have made it a point to take a Chicago paper. A nurse is assigned to look after the current events for a definite length of time. She informs herself, brings the paper to the table, and reads a topic between servings.

At first, it was up hill work, the nurses regarded it almost as a punishment, now they seem to realize that they must learn to read intelligently and know what is going on in the world outside our hospital walls.

The pupil nurses know more about what is going on in the country at large, than do the graduates who come into the hospital on cases.

On Sunday we have *The Outlook*, or something equally wholesome. It is a pleasure to hear some nurse start the conversation by speaking about some article she has read on some subject, away from the table, showing that the seed once planted will bear fruit of its own accord.

I would appreciate any suggestions to perfect this plan.

*Illinois.*